

1 32. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

2 opening the requested resource to determine if the requesting user may
3 access the requested resource if the memory does not indicate that the user has
4 previously accessed the resource; and

5 providing the user with access to the requested resource if the requested
6 resource indicates that the user may access the requested resource.
7

8 33. (New) A method according to claim 32, further comprising:

9 storing information in the memory indicating that the user has previously
10 accessed the requested resource.

11
12 **REMARKS**

13 This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed
14 **December 21, 1999**. With this amendment, claims 2, 6 and 16 have been
15 cancelled, claims 1, 10, 15 and 24 have been amended, and new claims 29-33
16 added. Support for the amended and newly introduced claims can be found in the
17 original specification, claims and/or drawings – thus, no new matter has been
18 introduced. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5, 7-15 and 17-33, as selectively amended,
19 remain pending. In view of the foregoing amendments, and the following
20 remarks, favorable reconsideration of the captioned application is respectfully
21 requested.
22

23 **35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection**

24 In **paragraphs 1 and 2** of the Action, claim 6 was rejected for failing to
25 particularly point out and distinctly claim that which the applicant regards as the

1 invention. In response, Applicant has cancelled the claim, thereby eliminating the
2 source of the rejection.

3 4 **35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections: The Brown Reference**

5 In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Action, claims 1-4, 7-18 and 21-28 are
6 rejected as being anticipated by a patent issued to Brown, et al. (USP 5,941,947).
7 In response, Applicant respectfully traverses.

8 **The Brown Reference**

9 The Brown reference teaches a system and method for controlling access to
10 data entities in a computer network. More specifically, Brown controls access to
11 network entities using an access rights database (152) maintained on a security
12 server (150). When a user attempts to access a resource on an application server
13 (120), the application server queries the security server (150) to obtain an access
14 rights list associated with the user. The access rights list identifies the resources
15 for which the user has access privileges. The access rights list for the user is
16 provided to the application server 120, which caches the access rights list to
17 support access control for subsequent accesses by the user to the resources of
18 application server 120 (see, e.g., col. 2, line 59, through col. 3, line 45; col. 7, line
19 61, through col. 8, line 14; col. 25, line 55, through col. 26, line 12; col. 28, lines
20 20-28; col. 29, lines 11-42; col. 29, line 54, through col. 30, line 23; Fig. 1; Figs.
21 3A and 3B; and Figs. 7-10). In this regard, the cached access rights list provides a
22 list of resources for which the user has access privileges, and does not denote that
23 the user has previously accessed those resources.

24 **Independent Claims**

25

1 As alluded to above, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 to more
2 particularly claim that which applicant regards as the invention. In particular,
3 Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 to claim:

4 checking a first memory to determine if a user
5 has previously accessed a resource on a computer
6 network upon receipt of an indication from the user to
7 access the resource; and

8 providing the user with access to the resource if
9 the first memory indicates that the user has previously
10 accessed the resource (as amended)

11 That is, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to particularly claim that the first
12 memory merely denotes whether the user has previously accessed the resource, not
13 necessarily whether the user has rights to the resource. In contrast, the access
14 rights list cached in the Brown system maintains a list of all resources for which
15 the user has access privileges, regardless of whether they have been previously
16 accessed.

17 Well settled patent law requires that in order for a reference to anticipate a
18 claimed invention, the reference must teach *each and every limitation of the*
19 *rejected claim* as presented within the claim. Applicants respectfully assert that
20 the cached access rights list of the Brown reference does not denote whether a
21 resource has been previously accessed, nor make a determination of whether to
22 permit access from an indication that the user has previously accessed the
23 resource. Rather, the cached access control list provides a listing of all resources
24 to which the user has access privileges, regardless of whether they have been
25 previously accessed. In this regard, the Brown reference fails to anticipate or
suggest at least the limitation of the group identifier code of claims 1 and 15.
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 and 15 are not

1 anticipated by the Brown reference, and respectfully request that the §102(e)
2 rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

3 **Dependent Claims**

4 Similarly, by virtue of at least their dependence upon patentable base
5 claims 1 and 15, as amended, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 4, 7-14,
6 17, 18 and 21-30 are likewise patentable over the Brown reference by virtue of at
7 least this dependency.

8 In addition to the foregoing basis for patentability, Applicant asserts that
9 claims 29 and 30, as amended, further distinguish the claimed invention over that
10 of the Brown reference. In particular, claims 29 and 30 include the feature
11 wherein:

12 checking a second memory to determine if the
13 user may access the requested resource if the first
14 memory does not indicate that the user has previously
15 accessed the requested resource

16 Applicant notes that the Brown reference does disclose or suggest maintaining in
17 memory an indication of whether a resource has been previously accessed by a
18 user to determine whether subsequent accesses to the resource are authorized,
19 much less checking a second memory if the first does not so indicate. Rather, the
20 access rights list provides an indication of all resources for which the user has
21 access privileges, regardless of whether they have been previously accessed.

22 Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Brown reference fails to anticipate
23 that which is claimed in rejected claims 29 and 30.

24 Insofar as the Brown reference fails to anticipate that which is claimed in
25 rejected claims 3, 4, 7-14, 17, 18 and 21-30, Applicant respectfully requests that
the §102(e) rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

1 **35 U.S.C. § 103**

2 Turning to **paragraphs 5** and **6** of the Action, claims 5, 19 and 20 were
3 rejected as being unpatentable over the Brown reference in view of a patent issued
4 to Teper, et al. (USP 5,815,665). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses.

5 **The Teper Reference**

6 The Teper reference is drawn to a system and method for providing trusted
7 brokering services over a distributed network. Applicant notes that the Teper
8 reference is not cited as teaching checking a first memory to determine if a user
9 has previously accessed a resource, and providing the user access to the resource if
10 the user has previously accessed the resource. Thus, without the need to further
11 characterize the Teper reference, Applicant respectfully asserts that the
12 combination of the Brown and Teper references fails to disclose or suggest that
13 which is claimed in rejected claims 1 and 15.

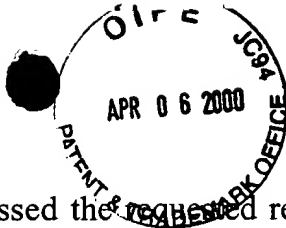
14 Applicant asserts that claims 5, 19 and 20 are dependent on patentable
15 claims 1 and 15, as amended. Accordingly, by virtue of at least their dependency
16 on patentable base claims 1 and 15, as amended, Applicant respectfully requests
17 that the §103(a) rejection of claims 5, 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

18 **New Claims 31-34**

19 Claim 31 is drawn to a method for securing access to network resources
20 comprising:

21 checking a memory to determine if a requesting
22 user has previously accessed the resource; and
23 providing the user with access to the requested
 resource if the user has previously accessed the
 resource.

24 As introduced above, neither the Brown nor the Teper reference disclose or
25 suggest making access determinations based on an indication of whether the user



1 has previously accessed the requested resource. In this regard, Applicant asserts
2 that claim 31 is patentable over the cited references.

3 Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 31 and are, therefore, patentable over
4 the cited references by virtue of at least this dependency. In addition, claim 32
5 includes the feature of:

6 opening the requested resource to determine if the requesting
7 user may access the requested resource if the memory does not
8 indicate that the user has previously accessed the resource.

9 Applicant notes that neither the Brown nor the Teper reference disclose or suggest
10 opening the resource to determine if the user may access the requested resource, as
11 claimed in claim 32. Thus, in addition to patentable dependencies, claim 32 is
12 patentable over the cited references by virtue of at least this claimed feature.

13 **Conclusion**

14 Claims 1, 3-5, 7-15 and 17-33 are in condition for allowance. Applicants
15 respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of the subject application.

16 *Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney*
17 *respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any*
18 *such outstanding matter.*

19
20 Respectfully Submitted,

21 Date: March 21, 2000

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